



## The Lower Gunnison River



Delta, Roubideau, Point Creek, Dominguez, Triangle Mesa, Whitewater USGS Quads, Delta BLM

### Maps

Half private, half public administered by the Montrose and Grand Junction BLM.

### Land Ownership

Class I-II, including a small diversion between Escalante and Dominguez Canyons. Run on left.

### Difficulty

7.3 feet per mile, 375 feet total drop.

### Average Gradient

Main use season: May to early October. Commonly run year round.

### Season

Delta to Whitewater - 39 miles (two days)  
Escalante Canyon to Whitewater - 28.7 miles (one to two days)  
Escalante Canyon to Dominguez Canyon - 13.2 miles (one day)  
Dominguez Canyon to Whitewater - 14 miles (one day)  
Whitewater to Grand Junction - 13.5 miles (one day)

### Trip Lengths

The Gunnison River between the towns of Delta and Grand Junction, offers a very scenic and gentle float. The river flows through beautiful slickrock canyon country interspersed with small ranches and fruit orchards. Cottonwood stands in the area hold great blue heron rookeries and the area is an April breeding ground for Canada geese. Canoe, kayak, and raft floats can be made in one day or longer overnight trips.

## The Lower Gunnison River

Bureau of Land Management  
Uncompahgre Field Office  
2505 S. Townsend Avenue  
Montrose, CO 81401  
970-240-5300, FAX 970-240-5367  
<http://www.co.blm.gov/ubra.html>

Grand Junction Field Office  
2815 H Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81506  
970-244-3000, FAX 970-244-3083  
<http://www.co.blm.gov/gjra.html>

offices:  
Land ownership status maps can be obtained from the following Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

### Maps and River Flow Information

Redlands Dam - Just south of the Colorado River in Grand Junction turn south onto 26 1/4 Road, proceed through the cemetery, turn right onto B 3/4 Road then left onto 26 3/8 Road. The boat take-out is just upstream of the Redlands Dam.

Whiteater - The public take-out is reached by taking Highway 141 west off of Highway 50. Turn at the first left onto Desert Road.

Dominguez Canyon (at Bridgeport) - Turn west off Highway 50 onto Bridgeport Road approximately 12 miles south of Whitewater (look for a cattle guard approximately one mile north of the Mesa/Delta County Line sign). Please do not park or trespass within the railroad right-of-way at the river.

Escalante Bridge - On County Road 1250 off Highway 50 at Escalante Canyon Rest Area and proceed approximately three miles on gravel road to put in on right.

Confluence Park in Delta - Turn west off Highway 50 near City Market in Delta.

### Access

Surface Management Status Map.

River flow information is available during the floating season by calling Colorado Water Talk (303-831-7135, Division 4, Station 7), or on the Web at [http://nwis-colo.cr.usgs.gov/rt-cgi/gen\\_tbl\\_pg](http://nwis-colo.cr.usgs.gov/rt-cgi/gen_tbl_pg) (Upper Colorado River Basin, Gunnison River at Delta).

In case of emergency contact Delta or Mesa County Sheriff's Department, dial 911.

## Dominguez Canyon WSA

The stretch of river between the Escalante put-in until several miles below the Dominguez Canyon take-out runs along the eastern boundary of the 75,800 acre Dominguez Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA), which the BLM has proposed for wilderness designation. The WSA offers excellent opportunities for hiking. Motorized and mechanical vehicles and equipment are *prohibited* within the WSA boundaries. Help us protect the natural beauty found here by leaving no trace of your visit. Avoid walking on cryptobiotic soils which take decades to recover. Please make sure that you stay on public lands when hiking and camping. Respect the rights of private property owners.

### Boating Regulations

All boaters must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved "whitewater" life jacket. Canoes and rafts must carry a repair kit, a spare paddle or oar, a spare lifejacket, and an adequate first-aid kit.

### Low Impact Camping Guidelines and Regulations

In addition to following the regulations, the BLM encourages ALL visitors to further minimize their impact by practicing the following "Leave No Trace" user ethics.

- Please sign-in at the Escalante register box so that emergency location is easier, and the BLM has accurate use information.
- Please camp in designated sites only (see map).
- Avoid trampling vegetation or creating new tent sites or trails at existing camps.
- There are no toilet or trash facilities along the river or at the put-ins/take-outs. Please pack out ALL your trash (and a little extra)!
- Save our cottonwoods. Please use a camp stove whenever possible. Fires are limited to driftwood and charcoal fires ONLY. Fire pans are required. Ashes must be packed out.
- Keep kitchen areas clean by using floors or tarps.
- Wash dishes and bathe 150 feet away from water sources. Use biodegradable soap sparingly and not in springs and side streams. Strain dishwater and pack out residue. Dispose of dishwater in the main current of the river.
- Leave natural objects and cultural artifacts where you find them. It is illegal to remove artifacts.
- Avoid disturbing wildlife and other visitors.

### Human Sanitation

**Day Use Boaters** - Bury waste six inches deep using the "cathole" method 150 feet from water sources. Pack out toilet paper and sanitary items in a plastic bag. Urinate in the river to reduce smells and fly problems.

**Overnight Boaters** - Washable, reusable toilet systems are required for all overnight boating groups including kayakers and canoeists. These units can be rented at outdoor shops. Urinate in the river to reduce smells and fly problems.

**Dump Station** - The RV Ranch Campground in Clifton is the closest dump station.

### River Courtesy

Leave plenty of room for others using the put-ins and take-outs by consolidating your gear and moving the vehicles off the launch sites as quickly as possible. When traveling in a small group, pick a small campsite (do not camp on private property) and leave larger sites for larger groups.

Motorized craft should slow and yield plenty of room to non-motorized craft.

Respect others desire for solitude.

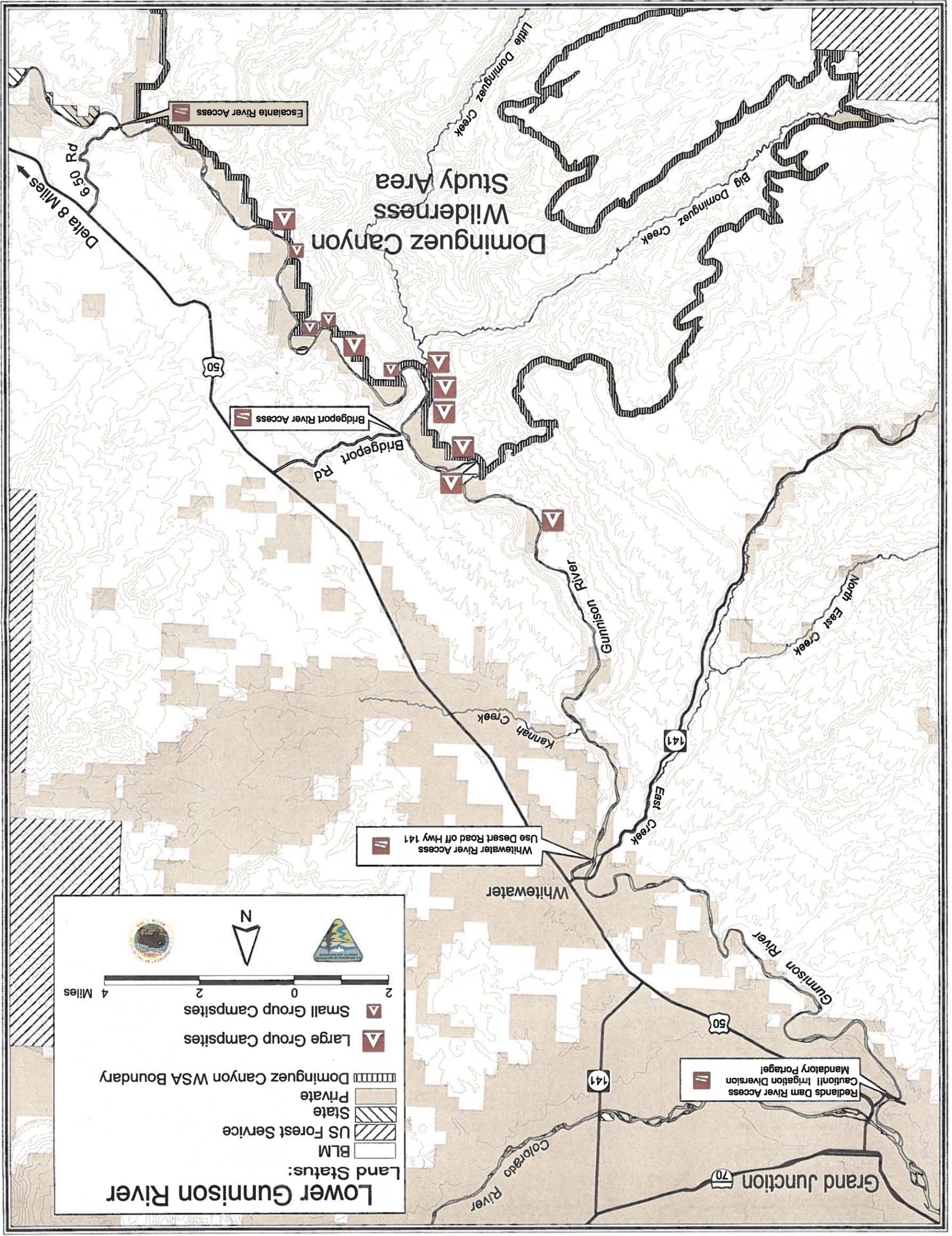
### Wildlife

The Gunnison River is a unique thread of life through these desert canyons, providing habitat for many threatened and endangered species. Eagles nest in the cottonwoods. Brought back from the edge of extinction, peregrine falcons soar along the cliffs in Dominguez Canyon where you might also see some of the reintroduced desert bighorn sheep.



Nesting birds may abandon areas if they feel threatened by human activity. Please view them and





**Lower Gunnison River**

**Land Status:**

- BLM
- US Forest Service
- State
- Private
- Dominguez Canyon WSA Boundary
- Large Group Campsites
- Small Group Campsites



Escalante River Access

Bridgeport River Access

Whitewater River Access  
Use Desert Road off Hwy 141

Redlands Dam River Access  
Caution!! Irrigation Diversion  
Mandatory Portage!

Dominguez Canyon  
Wilderness  
Study Area

Delta Rd  
6.50 Rd  
Delta 8 Miles

Little Dominguez Creek

Big Dominguez Creek

Gunnison River

North East Creek

Kannah Creek

Whitewater

Gunnison River

Colorado River

Grand Junction

50

141

141

50

70